



www.geocaching.com

Welcome to Geocaching!

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices.

Never heard of geocaching?

Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. The basic idea is to hide containers (caches) and post the locations of these caches on the Internet. Anyone with a GPS receiver can enter the locations' coordinates to find the caches and then log the caches at www.geocaching.com to show that they've found them.

Geocaching participants include people from all age groups, including families with children, students, adults and retirees. It is a worldwide activity with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. Since September of 2000, geocaching has grown from 75 caches in several countries to hundreds of thousands of caches all over the world.

How Does GPS Work?

Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers tap into a satellite network from anywhere in the world to accurately pinpoint specific geographic locations. A location is identified by measuring its distance from at least three satellites by a process called trilateration.

A geocacher can place a cache anywhere in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then alert others to the cache's existence and location via the Internet. Anyone with a GPS receiver can then hunt for the cache.

Geocaching in Six Easy Steps

1. Go to www.geocaching.com and register for a **free account**.
2. Click "Hide & Seek a Cache."
3. Enter your zip code and click "Search."
4. Choose any cache from the list and click on its name.
5. Enter the coordinates (waypoint) of a cache into your GPS receiver.
6. Follow the direction arrow on the receiver until you find the hidden cache.

Simple Rules of Geocaching

- If you take something from the cache, leave something of equal or greater value.
- Write about your find in the cache logbook.
- Log your find at www.geocaching.com.

Keep In Mind

- Caches should never be buried.
- Don't put yourself or others in harm's way.
- Don't place items such as food, explosives, knives, drugs or alcohol in a cache.
- Caches are intended to be enjoyed by people of all ages.
- Respect local laws and seek permission where needed.
- Review our cache listing requirements and guidelines before hiding a cache.

GROUNDSPeAK PRESENTS

A GUIDE TO GEOCACHING





Types of Caches



Traditional:

The original cache type consisting, at minimum, of a container and a logbook. The coordinates listed on a traditional cache page describe the exact location for the cache.



Multi-Cache:

A multi-cache involves two or more locations. Hints are found in the initial cache(s) and then the final location is typically a physical cache container.



Puzzle Cache:

A cache that involves a puzzle or puzzles, sometimes complicated, that you must solve to determine the coordinates of the cache.



Event Cache:

Geocaching events organized by local geocachers and geocaching organizations. Listings contain coordinates, a date and time to meet.

Before You Go

- Find a cache that will meet your immediate goals. Are you looking for a difficult hike or an easy adventure?
- Print cache information (don't forget the hints) and make sure to bring both a map and compass.
- Remember that distances can be deceiving. A cache can take longer to find depending on trails, rivers and other obstacles.
- Pack any needed supplies such as water, food and extra clothing. Check cache terrain and difficulty ratings.
- Let someone know where you are going.
- Don't forget your GPS receiver and extra batteries.

Finding a Cache

- Mark your car as a waypoint to ensure your safe return.
- Be mindful of the environment, practice **Cache In Trash Out**.
- Bring friends and family with you; sharing the experience can be very rewarding. Pets are usually welcome, too!

After the Find

- Sign the cache logbook.
- Leave the cache as you found it (hidden, of course).
- Log your find at www.geocaching.com.



Found it!



Didn't find it

Want More Information?

Visit www.geocaching.com to learn how to:

- Locate caches in your area
- Create your own caches
- Locate resources and recommendations
- Play variations of the game
- Find geocachers and events

Geocaching.com is owned and operated by Groundspeak, Inc. of Seattle, Washington. Groundspeak enables people to create and share interactive location-based experiences in the real world using a unique combination of technology and the Internet.



Cache In Trash Out

Cache In Trash Out is a worldwide environmental clean-up effort supported by the geocaching community.

Check the online event calendar to participate in organized clean-ups in your area.

Visit www.cacheintrashout.org for more information.



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